Water pollution law

†899.SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in order to prevent water pollution, Government would contemplate stringent law against those who pollute banks of big canals and rivers adjoining cities;

(b) whether Government has prepared any plan to prevent water pollution; and

(c) the works that would be given first priority under Ganga Action Plan for making the river pollution free and the budget allocated by Government for this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) In order to prevent water pollution, the Government has enacted the following environmental legislations:-

i. The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974: the Act was enacted to provide for the prevention and control of water pollution and maintaining or restoring of wholesomeness of water including canals and rivers.

ii. The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986: the Act was enacted to provide for the protection and improvement of environment and for matters connected therewith. This is an umbrella legislation.

These legislations have stringent provisions for imprisonment and/or fine in case of contravention of the relevant provisions of the Act.

(b) and (c) A National Water Quality Monitoring programme (NWMP) is being implemented which helps in evaluating the nature and extent of pollution control required, effectiveness of pollution control measures already in existence, drawing the water quality trends and prioritizing the pollution control efforts. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has established a network of monitoring stations on various water bodies across the Country.

A Central Sponsored Scheme of National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) is also being implemented to cover pollution abatement works in the identified polluted stretches of 37 major rivers in 166 towns spread over 20 States in the country. A budget allocation of Rs. 2100 crore has been made in the XI Plan for the National River Conservation Plan which includes Ganga Action Plan. The pollution abatement works which have been taken up under NRCP include core works of interception and diversion of sewage and setting up of sewage treatment plants besides non-core works such as river front development, low cost sanitation, crematoria etc.

Climate change

900. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the climate change has affected the onset of monsoon in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi